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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**



Application of: D. Przytulla

Art Unit: 3727

Application No.: 09/525,002

Confirmation No.: 8191

Filed: March 14, 2000

Examiner: S. Castellano

For: LIDDED BARREL

Attorney Docket No.: 2511-091

BRIEF ON APPEAL FEE TRANSMITTAL

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

An original and two copies of the Applicant's Brief on Appeal in the above-entitled application are submitted herewith. The item(s) checked below apply:

☒ The Brief filing fee is estimated to be **\$320.00**.

The brief filing fee is:

☒ Required.

Please charge the required Brief filing fee to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Date: May 2, 2003

Respectfully Submitted,

Seth A. Watkins
FOR: Victor N. Balancia

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Enclosure

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BRIEF ON APPEAL

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.191 and § 1.192, this is an appeal from the Examiner's final rejection dated April 2, 2002, rejecting claims 3-23 of the above-identified application. Appellant timely filed a Notice of Appeal on October 2, 2002. An original and two copies of this Brief are submitted herewith.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST - 37 C.F.R. § 192(C)(1)

The real party in interest is Mauser-Werke GmbH, a German corporation having a place of business at Schildesstraße 71-163, 50321 Brühl, Germany. Mauser-Werke GmbH is the assignee of the present application by virtue of an assignment recorded June 11, 1997 at Reel 8675, Frame 0381.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES - 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(C)(2)

There are no related appeals or interferences that will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

STATUS OF CLAIMS - 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(C)(3)

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. Claims 1-2 stand allowed. Claims 3-23 stand rejected and are the subject of this appeal. The appealed claims are presented in Appendix A attached hereto.

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STATUS OF AMENDMENTS - 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(C)(4)

In response to the final Office Action, an Amendment was filed on October 2, 2002 in which the specification was amended. The Examiner stated in an Advisory Action mailed on October 15, 2002 that the proposed amendments would be entered.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION - 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(C)(5)

This invention relates to a lidded barrel. (*See, e.g.*, specification 12:17-13:2; Fig. 3). Previously known lidded barrels have comparatively little ability to withstand falls and are therefore not well-suited for handling liquids. (*Id.*, 2:18-3:20). Owing to the special configuration of the barrel lid and the barrel mouth edges as well as by a special matching of the individual components to one another, the lidded barrel according to the invention can be manipulated in the filled state with the same barrel-gripping tool that is universally employed and in industrial use for modern plastic L-ring bung barrels or normal steel bung barrels. (*Id.*, 16:1-5). By improving the strength of the lidded barrel when it is dropped, the barrel is also made especially well-suited for handling liquids since it remains liquid-tight even when dumped or dropped from great heights. (*Id.*, 5:19-22). In one embodiment, a barrel body 20 is provided with an exterior rib 40 defining part of an upper barrel edge 28. (*Id.*, Fig. 6).

ISSUES ON APPEAL - 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(C)(6)

- (1) Whether claims 3-14 and 16-23 are anticipated, within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), by U.S. Patent No. 3,696,962 to Fehres *et al.* ("Fehres '962 patent");
- (2) Whether claims 3 and 18 are anticipated, within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), by U.S. Patent No. 4,177,934 to Hammes *et al.* ("Hammes '934 patent");
- (3) Whether claim 15 is obvious, within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), based on the teachings of the Fehres '962 patent in view of the Hammes '934 patent; and
- (4) Whether claims 4 and 19 are obvious, within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), based on the teachings of the Hammes '934 patent.

GROUPING OF CLAIMS - 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(C)(7)

For purposes of this appeal and without prejudice to showing the patentability of the dependent claims, the claims are grouped as follows:

- Claims 3-14 and 16-23 stand or fall together; and
- Claim 15 stands alone.

ARGUMENT

A. Claims 3-14 and 16-23 are not anticipated by the Fehres '962 patent.

Claims 3-14 and 16-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Fehres '962 patent. The Examiner stated:

Fehres discloses an open top barrel, blow molded lidded barrel or open top plastic drum, the container including a container body, a cover and a retaining ring, the container body having a closed bottom, and upwardly extending side wall and a chime portion which receives the cover, the chime portion including a first portion (first chime wall) extending radially away from the body, a second portion (second chime wall) extending upwardly from the first portion and an exterior circumferential rib projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of the first and second portions.

(Office Action, April 2, 2002, p. 2).

Applicant's pending independent claims 3, 4, 18 and 19 each recite, *inter alia*, "an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29)" and a rib "projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions."

Applicant's pending independent claims 5 and 10 each recite, *inter alia*, "an inner edge of the first chime wall extending radially inward of the entire second chime wall" and a rib "extending radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second chime walls."

For the reasons that follow, Applicant respectfully submits that the Fehres '962 patent does not anticipate pending independent claims 3-5, 10, and 18-19, or the claims that depend therefrom.

1. Fehres does not show each and every element of claims 3-5, 10, and 18-19.

To anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102, a single prior art reference must disclose each and every element of the claimed invention in a manner sufficient to enable one skilled in the art to reduce the invention to practice, thus placing the invention in possession of the public. *W.L. Gore & Assocs., Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 1554 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Donohue*, 766 F.2d 531, 533 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

The Fehres '962 patent is directed to a liquid sealed container. Referring to Fig. 3 of the Fehres '962 patent, reproduced herein, a container 1 is disclosed with an upper

rim 2 that defines a recessed portion 12 bounded by a ridge 14 and an upper portion that extends to a top part 17.

In contrast, as shown for example in Fig. 6 of the present application, a barrel body is provided with an exterior rib 40 defining part of an upper barrel edge 28. A first portion 27 of upper barrel edge 28 extends radially away from barrel body 20 and a second portion 29 extends upwardly from first portion 27. Rib 40 projects radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of the first and second portions 27, 29, respectively. An inner edge 27a of the first portion 27 extends radially inward of the entire second portion 29. In a preferred embodiment of Applicant's invention, a "first chime wall" is represented by a first wall portion 27, and a "second chime wall" is represented by a second wall portion 28.

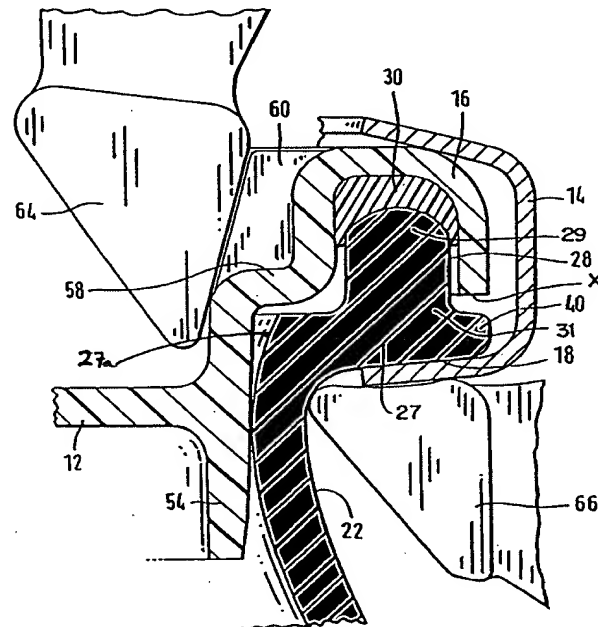
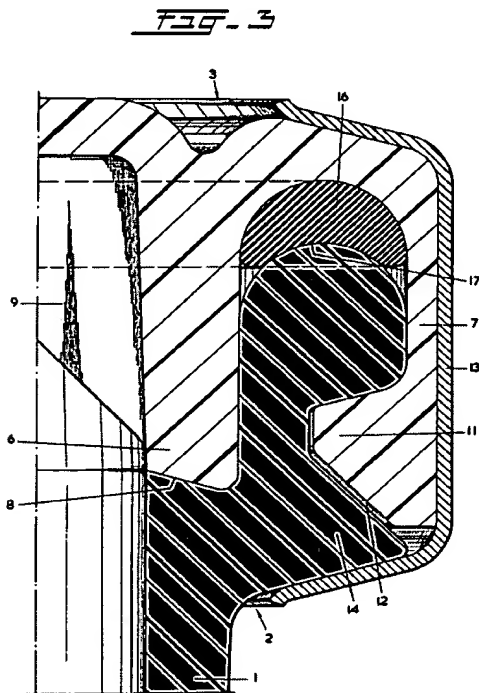


FIG.6

Fig. 3 of the Fehres '962 patent (left) compared to Fig. 6 of the pending application (right).¹

In addition, Fig. 6a of the present application specifically delineates the boundaries of the first wall portion 27, second wall portion 29 and exterior rib 40. The second wall portion 29 constitutes that portion of the upper barrel edge 28 that is above an uppermost portion of the rib 40. As also seen in Fig. 6a, the first wall portion 27 constitutes that portion of the upper barrel edge 28 that is: (a) above a level of the radially innermost portion of the barrel's upper sidewall, (b) below the second wall portion 29 and (c) radially inward of the rib 40 to which first wall portion 27 is connected.

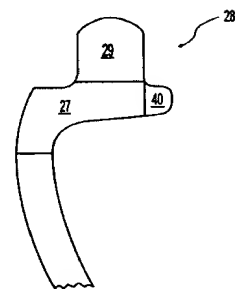


Fig. 6a

¹ Gray shading has been added for emphasis. This comparison is not to scale.

The Fehres '962 patent is understood to be silent at least with respect *a rib projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of the first and second portions*, as recited in Applicant's independent claims 3, 4, 18 and 19. Furthermore, the Fehres '962 patent is understood to be silent at least with respect to *a rib extending radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second chime walls*, as recited in Applicant's independent claims 5 and 10. Claims must be read in light of the disclosure of the specification on which they are based, not in a vacuum. *In re Dean*, 291 F.2d 947 (C.C.P.A. 1961). Nevertheless, in the final rejection, the Examiner appears to have arbitrarily assigned boundaries to the upper rim **2** of the Fehres '962 patent in order to allegedly meet various limitations of Applicant's claims.² In so doing, the Examiner failed to construe the claim language in light of Applicant's specification and Fig. 6a.

Applicant also has disclosed advantages to the claimed constructions over prior art constructions. As clearly shown above in the exemplar figure comparison, Applicant discloses a rib **40** that provides an enlarged support surface **18** that is also advantageous for reliably gripping the barrel with the claw **66** of a barrel-gripping tool. And by providing a rib **40** projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of the first and second portions, the stiffness of the barrel is increased without affecting the attachment of a lid **12** to second portion **29**.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner failed to cite with any particularity to structure or other disclosure in the Fehres '962 patent that relates to a rib projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of the first and second portions, or a rib extending radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of the first and second chime walls, as these limitations must be construed from Applicant's specification and prosecution history. Accordingly, the Examiner's interpretation of the Fehres '962 patent fails to meet all of the limitations of Applicant's independent claims 3, 4, 5, 10, 18 and 19.

2. Dependent Claims 6-9, 11-14, 16-17, and 20-23.

With respect to dependent claims 6-9, 11-14, 16-17, and 20-23, Applicant respectfully submits that because these claims define more particular aspects of Applicant's

² A similarly arbitrary delineation of boundaries had previously been advanced by the Examiner, but then abandoned. In an earlier Office Action dated April 5, 2001, the Examiner provided a color-coded copy of Fig. 3 of the Fehres '962 patent to support a § 102 rejection. Subsequently, in response to Applicant's arguments concerning the Examiner's characterization of the Fehres '962 patent, the Examiner issued an Office Action dated September 25, 2001 again with a § 102 rejection but instructing Applicant to "discard the colored representations of Fig. 3 of Fehres."

invention in addition to the features and elements of the independent claims from which they depend, these claims also are patentably distinct for the same reasons as independent claims 3-5, 10, and 18-19.

B. Claims 3 and 18 are not anticipated by the Hammes '934 patent.

Claims 3 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Hammes '934 patent. The Examiner failed to provide any explanation in the final Office Action for the assertion that these claims are "clearly anticipated" by the reference.

The Hammes '934 patent is directed to a container and lid. Referring to Fig. 1 of the Hammes '934 patent, reproduced below, a container is disclosed with a body portion 1, a flange 3, and a neck portion 5. In contrast, as discussed above and shown for example in Fig. 6 of the present application, a barrel body 20 is provided with an exterior rib 40 defining part of an upper barrel edge 28. A first portion 27 of upper barrel edge 28 extends radially away from barrel body 20 and a second portion 29 extends upwardly from first portion 27. Rib 40 projects radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of the first and second portions 27, 29, respectively.

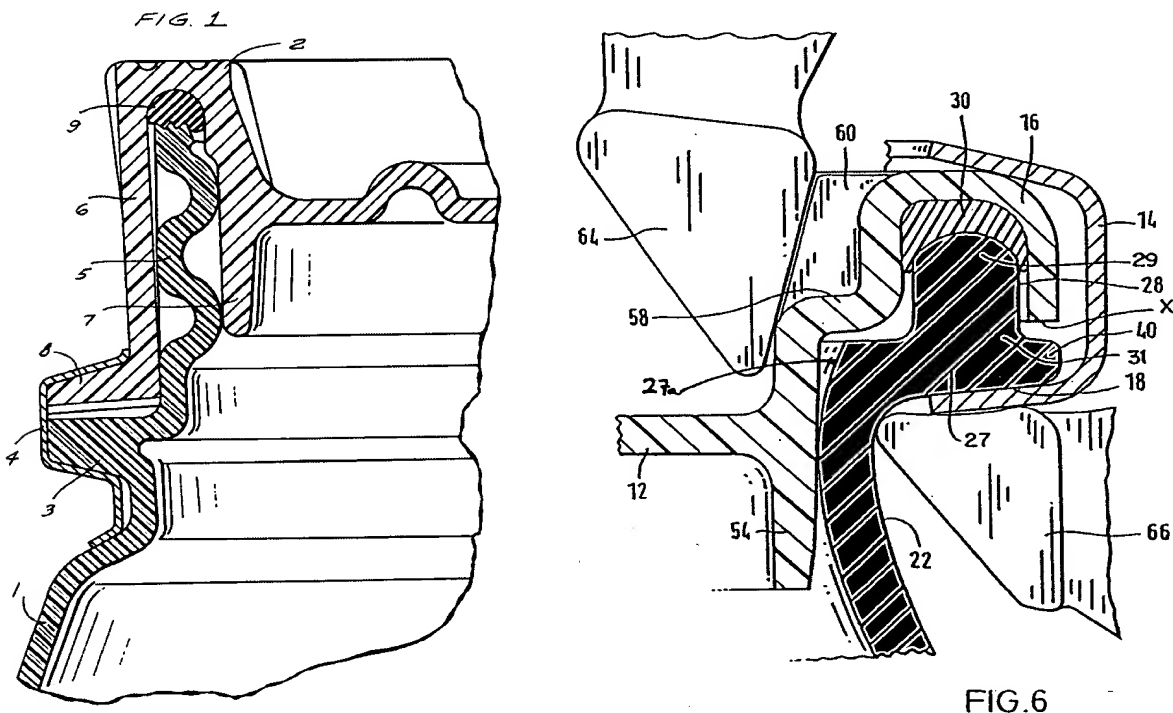


Fig. 1 of the Hammes '934 patent (left) compared to Fig. 6 of the pending application (right).³

³ See footnote 1, supra.

The Hammes '934 patent is understood to be silent at least with respect to *an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29), and a rib projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of the first and second portions*, as recited in Applicant's independent claims 3 and 18. And the final Office Action fails to identify any structure in the Hammes '934 patent that corresponds to an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29), as claimed by Applicant. The body portion 1 and flange 3 in Hammes, for example, clearly do not extend radially inward of the neck portion 5. Furthermore, the final Office Action fails to identify any structure in the Hammes '934 patent that corresponds to a rib projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of the first and second portions.

Among the disclosed advantages of the claimed constructions over prior art constructions, as clearly shown in the exemplar figure comparison, Applicant's rib 40 provides an enlarged support surface 18 that is also advantageous for reliably gripping the barrel with the claw 66 of a barrel-gripping tool. Moreover, by providing a rib 40 projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of the first and second portions, the stiffness of the barrel is increased without affecting the attachment of a lid 12 to second portion 29.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner failed to cite with any particularity to structure or other disclosure in the Hammes '934 patent that relates to an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29). The Examiner also failed to cite with any particularity to structure or other disclosure in the Hammes '934 patent that relates to a rib projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of the first and second portions.⁴ Accordingly, the Examiner's interpretation of the Hammes '934 patent fails to meet all of the limitations of Applicant's independent claims 3 and 18.

C. Claim 15 is not obvious over the Fehres '962 patent in view of the Hammes '934 patent.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Fehres '962 patent in view of the Hammes '934 patent. The Examiner stated:

⁴ As with the Fehres '962 patent, the Examiner had previously advanced an arbitrary delineation of boundaries for an embodiment in the Hammes '934 patent, but then abandoned the construction. In an earlier Office Action dated April 5, 2001, the Examiner provided a color-coded copy of Fig. 1 of the Hammes '934 patent to support a § 102 rejection. Nevertheless, in response to Applicant's arguments concerning the Examiner's characterization of the Hammes '934 patent, the Examiner issued an Office Action dated September 25, 2001 again with a § 102 rejection but instructing Applicant to "discard the colored representations of Fig. 1 of Hammes."

Fehres discloses the invention except for the top surface of the rib being substantially parallel to the rib's bottom surface. Hammes teaches a rib wherein the top surface is substantially parallel to the bottom surface.

(Office Action, April 2, 2002, p. 3).

A prima facie case of obviousness is established by showing that some objective teaching or suggestion in the applied prior art taken as a whole and/or knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art would have led that person to the claimed invention, including each and every limitation of the claims, without recourse to the teachings in Applicant's disclosure. *See generally In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 1447-48 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (Nies, J., concurring).

As a threshold matter, neither the Fehres '962 patent nor the Hammes '934 patent, alone or in combination, disclose much less suggest an open top plastic drum with *an inner edge of the first chime wall extending radially inward of the entire second chime wall and a rib extending radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second chime walls*. Thus, this combination of references clearly fails to render obvious claim 15 because each and every limitation of claim 15 is not taught or suggested by this combination.

cl. 5.
L 12-14 +
L 15 -18

Furthermore, Applicant teaches in the specification that the slender feature of Applicant's inventive barrel provides improved stability over commonly used bulgy standard barrels. (*See, e.g.*, specification 12:17-20). A comparison between Applicant's inventive barrel and a prior bulgy standard lidded barrel is even shown in Fig. 3 of the present application. (*See also* specification 12:17-20). The combination of the Fehres '962 patent and the Hammes '934 patent is ineffective to render obvious Applicant's claim 15 because these patents relate to containers with different moments of inertia and concomitant stiffnesses – for example, the body portion 1 of Hammes bulges outward. Applicant thus respectfully submits that it would not be obvious to combine the Fehres '962 patent and the Hammes '934 patent.

D. Claims 4 and 19 are not obvious over the Hammes '934 patent.

Claims 4 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hammes '934 patent. The Examiner stated:

Hammes discloses the invention except for a second portion, which defines an uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge, with an inner edge of the first portion extending radially inward of the entire second portion. It would have been obvious to remove portions of the upper barrel edge which extend upwardly of the second portion so that the second portion defines the uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge if such portion are deemed to be unnecessary. The portions which extend upwardly of the second portion (that is, portion 5) are not necessary because the lid continues to be held upon the

container body by the retaining ring (4) and the elimination of portion 5 would save plastic molding materials.

(Office Action, April 2, 2002, pp. 3-4).

Again, as a threshold matter, the Hammes '934 patent fails to disclose much less suggest a blow-molded lidded barrel with *an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29) and a rib projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions*. Thus, the Hammes '934 patent clearly fails to render obvious claim 4 or 19 because each and every limitation of these claims is not taught or suggested by this reference.

In addition, as disclosed in the Hammes '934 patent and shown in Fig. 1, the neck portion 5 of the container is designed to be radially confined between the external wall 6 and internal wall 7 of the lid 2. The combination of walls 6 and 7 and neck portion 5 clearly contributes to the sealing of the Hammes design. Thus, the Examiner's assertion that "[t]he portions which extend upwardly of the second portion (that is, portion 5) are not necessary" fails to demonstrate an appreciation of the container features shown in the Hammes '934 patent.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Hammes '934 patent does not render obvious either of independent claims 4 or 19.

CONCLUSION

As the features and elements recited in claims 3-23 are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the Fehres '962 patent or the Hammes '934 patent, Applicant respectfully submits that the final rejections of claims 3-23 are in error and should be reversed.

A fee for an extension of time is believed to be due for this submission and a petition for extension of time is submitted concurrently herewith. A Brief on Appeal Fee Transmittal sheet also is submitted concurrently herewith. Should any additional fees be required, please charge such fees to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Date: May 2, 2003

Respectfully Submitted,

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Enclosures

APPENDIX A - APPEALED CLAIMS

3. In an open top barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) extending circumferentially around said barrel and including a first portion (27) extending radially away from said body (20) and having a downwardly facing surface (18), and a second portion (29) extending upwardly from said first portion (27), with an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29); the improvement comprising:

- a) an exterior rib (40), said rib (40) defining part of said barrel edge and having both an upper surface and a lower surface projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions with said lower surface of said rib disposed along said downwardly facing surface (18) and defining a continuing part of said downwardly facing surface (18), said rib (40) terminating in a free end surface connecting said upper and lower surfaces.

4. In a blow-molded lidded barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper open end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) having a first portion (27) extending radially away from said body (20) and having a downwardly facing surface (18), and a second portion (29) extending upwardly from said first portion (27) to define an uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), with an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29), a barrel lid (12) covering the open end of the barrel in a closed position of the lid, said lid having a central section and an outer peripheral lid edge (16) which in cross-section defines a downwardly facing U-shaped part overlying said upper barrel edge (28), a U-shaped tension-ring closure member (14), which in said closed position of the lid engages with an upper leg of said-tension ring closure member over an upwardly

facing surface of said outer peripheral lid edge (16) and engages with a lower leg of said tension-ring closure member under said downwardly facing surface (18) that extends below said uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), the improvement comprising:

- a) an exterior rib (40), said rib (40) defining part of said barrel edge and having both an upper surface and a lower surface projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions with said lower surface of said rib disposed along said downwardly facing surface (18) and defining a continuing part of said downwardly facing surface (18), said rib (40) terminating in a free end surface connecting said upper and lower surfaces.

5. An open top plastic drum, comprising:

- a) a drum body having:
 - i) a closed bottom;
 - ii) a substantially axially symmetrical sidewall extending upwardly from said bottom; and
 - iii) a chime portion for receiving a removable cover, said chime portion extending from said sidewall so as to define an open top and including:
 - (1) a substantially radial first chime wall projecting outwardly from said sidewall and having a bottom surface,
 - (2) a substantially cylindrical second chime wall directed upwardly from said first chime wall and having a lower portion contiguous with said first chime wall, with an inner edge of the first chime wall extending radially inward of the entire second chime wall, and
 - (3) an exterior circumferential rib extending from the first chime wall below the second chime wall, and also extending radially

outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second chime walls;

- b) a cover having a peripheral chime receiving member that includes a circumferential flange having an inner diameter larger than said second chime wall but less than said circumferential rib; and
 - c) a retaining ring having first and second legs fixedly connected by an intermediate band, wherein said first leg engages an outer surface of said peripheral chime receiving member directly above said second chime wall, and wherein said second leg engages the bottom portions of said rib and said first chime wall directly below said second chime wall.
6. An open top drum as defined in claim 5 wherein said rib fills a portion of an area between said second leg, intermediate band, second chime wall and circumferential flange.
7. An open top drum as defined in claim 5 wherein said rib substantially fills said area.
8. An open top drum as defined in claim 5 wherein said drum is made of blow molded plastic and said sidewall is substantially frustroconical.
9. An open top drum as described in claim 5, wherein said cover is plastic and includes a skirt that extends inside said chime portion.
10. An open top plastic drum, comprising:
- a) a blow-molded drum body having:
 - i) a closed bottom;
 - ii) a substantially axially symmetrical sidewall extending upwardly from said bottom, and

- iii) a chime portion for receiving a removable cover, said chime portion extending from said sidewall so as to define an open top and including:
 - (1) a substantially radial first chime wall projecting outwardly from said sidewall and having a bottom surface,
 - (2) a substantially cylindrical second chime wall directed upwardly from said first chime wall and having a lower portion contiguous with said first chime wall, with an inner edge of the first chime wall extending radially inward of the entire second chime wall, and
 - (3) an exterior circumferential rib extending radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second chime wall, the rib further having a bottom surface that is substantially coplanar with said first wall and substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the container circumscribing said lower portion of said second chime wall, whereby the rib increases the moment of inertia of the chime portion and thus provides greater rigidity to said chime portion and;
- b) a cover having a peripheral chime receiving member that includes a circumferential flange having an inner diameter larger than said second chime wall but less than said circumferential rib, so as to extend only over an upper portion of said second chime wall but not over said rib;
- c) a retaining ring having first and second legs fixedly connected by an intermediate band, wherein said first leg engages an outer surface of said peripheral chime receiving member directly above said second chime wall and wherein said second leg engages the bottom portions of said rib and said first chime wall directly below said second chime wall such that the length of

engagement of the lower leg of the ring with the chime portion is increased and the ring has increased resistance to deformation and sliding from the chime if the drum is dropped.

11. An open top drum as defined in claim 10 wherein said rib fills a portion of an area between said second leg, intermediate band, second chime wall and circumferential flange.
12. An open top drum as defined in claim 10 wherein said rib substantially fills said area.
13. An open top drum as defined in claim 10 wherein said drum is made of blow molded plastic and said sidewall is substantially frustroconical.
14. An open top drum as described in claim 10, wherein said cover is plastic and includes a skirt that extends inside said chime portion.
15. An open drum as defined in claim 5 wherein said rib has a top surface substantially parallel to said bottom surface.
16. An open drum as defined in claim 5, wherein the open drum is blow-molded.
17. An open drum as defined in claim 5, wherein the exterior circumferential rib has a bottom surface that is substantially coplanar with said first wall.
18. In an open top barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) extending circumferentially around said barrel and including a first portion (27) attached to said body (20) and having a downwardly facing surface (18), and a second portion (29) extending upwardly from said first portion (27), with an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29), the improvement comprising:

- a) an exterior rib (40), said rib (40) defining part of said barrel edge and having both an upper surface and a lower surface projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions with said lower surface of said rib disposed along said downwardly facing surface (18) and defining a continuing part of said downwardly facing surface (18), said rib (40) terminating in a free end surface connecting said upper and lower surfaces.

19. In a blow-molded lidded barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper open end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) having a first portion (27) attached to said body (20) and having a downwardly facing surface (18), and a second portion (29) extending upwardly from said first portion (27) to define an uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), with an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29), a barrel lid (12) covering the open end of the barrel in a closed position of the lid, said lid having a central section and an outer peripheral lid edge (16) which in cross-section defines a downwardly facing U-shaped part overlying said upper barrel edge (28), a U-shaped tension-ring closure member (14), which in said closed position of the lid engages with an upper leg of said-tension ring closure member over an upwardly facing surface of said outer peripheral lid edge (16) and engages with a lower leg of said tension-ring closure member under said downwardly facing surface (18) that extends below said uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), the improvement comprising:

- a) an exterior rib (40), said rib (40) defining part of said barrel edge and having both an upper surface and a lower surface projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions with said lower surface of said rib disposed along said downwardly facing surface (18) and defining a continuing part of said downwardly facing surface (18), said rib

(40) terminating in a free end surface connecting said upper and lower surfaces.

20. The blow-molded lidded barrel (10) according to claim 19, wherein the lid (12) is provided with a downwardly extending ring flange (54) which, in said closed position of the lid (12), is radially inward of and extends below a level of, the entire first portion (27), the entire second portion (29) and the entire rib (40).

21. The blow-molded lidded barrel (10) according to claim 4, wherein the lid (12) is provided with a downwardly extending ring flange (54) which, in said closed position of the lid (12), is radially inward of and extends below a level of, the entire first portion (27), the entire second portion (29) and the entire rib (40).

22. The open top plastic drum according to claim 5, wherein the cover is provided with a downwardly extending ring flange which, in a closed position of the cover over the chime portion, is radially inward of and extends below a level of, the entire first chime wall, the entire second chime wall and the entire exterior circumferential rib.

23. The open top plastic drum according to claim 10, wherein the cover is provided with a downwardly extending ring flange which, in a closed position of the cover over the chime portion, is radially inward of and extends below a level of, the entire first chime wall, the entire second chime wall and the entire exterior circumferential rib.